auction platform, ripening/curing chamebrs and quality testing equipment, etc;

(iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters / growers / Cooperative Scoeities for development of infrastructural facilities such as pruchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre cooling/ cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses);

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at export units;

(v) Grant of air frieght susbsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits.

(vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/Modified Atmosphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable products;

(vii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various international Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;

(viii) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers in pre and post harvest management practices, dissermination of post harvest manuals for export production, quality control packaging, transport, etc.

Industrial Estate for Food Processing

2331. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural and processed food products export development authority (APEDA) proposed to set up an industrial estate for food processing units in Kuppam in Chittor, district, Andhra Pradesh for boosting exports of horticulture products;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of Andhra Pradesh thereto; and

(c) the grants proposed to be given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has a scheme for extending financial assistance for setting up of special infrastructural facilities and for conducting feasibility studies relating to export promotion of agro products. Under the above scheme assistance can be provided to the State Government on receipt of a proposal for the same.

Trade with Myanmar and China

2332. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to use the Steelwell Road which connects Ledo (Assam) with Myanmar and China via Arunachal for commercial purpose;

(b) whether Government have any plan to improve it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) India and Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in March 1997 under which the two countries agreed to cooperate with each other for the upgradation/construction of border roads in Myanmar, along the Indo-Myanmar border, in the interest of promoting economic cooperation between the two countires. Under the provisions of this MoU, the two countries have